



By the King.

A PROCLAMATION

For the Prizes of Victuals within the Verge of His Majesties Household.

CHARLES R.

Whereas in Our Passages through divers parts of Our Realm, Necessity requireth that a great number of Our Subjects, not onely Noblemen and others attending Our Service, but others for their necessary occasions, shall frequent those places where in Our Royal Person We shall resort; and it is requisite that competent Provision be made, that they be not exposed to the intolerable avarice of Bakers, Brewers, Inholders, Butchers, and Sellers of Victual, who, not contented with reasonable Profit in Uttering and Selling of Victual within Our Dominions, and specially within the Verge of Our Household, will (as We have cause to doubt) unlawfully Exact and Demand unreasonable and extreme Prizes for Victuals, Horsemeat, Lodging, and other Necessaries, above the Prizes they were sold at before Our coming to those parts: Therefore to prevent the extreme Exaction by the foresaid Victuallers, and others, towards Our Servants, Train, and Suiters attending Our Court, wheresoever We make Our abode, nothing respecting Our Prerogative, nor the Laws of Our Realm, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by the Advice of the Lords and others of Our Privy Council, We do hereby straitly Charge and Command, That all persons do obey and keep all such Prizes, as is and shall be Prized, Assessed, and Rated by the Clerk of the Market of Our Household, or his lawful Deputy, upon the Presentment of Jurors, by vertue of his Office, sworn and charged from time to time, as well within Liberties as without, within the Verge of Our Household: Which Rates and Prizes We will, not onely shall be certified by Our said Clerk of the Market, or his Deputy, into Our Compting-house, but also fixed and set upon the Gates of Our Court, and other places within the Verge, as well within Liberties as without; and that no manner of person or persons, of what Estate or Degree soever he or they be, do in any wise, ask, demand, take, receive, or pay more for Corn, Victuals, Horsemeat, Lodging, or any other such thing, then after the rate and form aforesaid, upon pain of imprisonment, fine, and such further punishment that shall thereof follow. And moreover We do straitly charge and command, that no manner of person or persons, now using, or which accustomedly have used or shall use, or of right ought to use, to serve any City, Borough, Town, or other place where Our Repose or Residence shall be, or elsewhere within the Verge of Our Household, either within Liberties or without, with any kind of Corn or Victuals, or other Necessaries, either upon the Market day, or at any other time, shall be any thing the more remiss or slack in bringing or selling their Provision, then they or any of them heretofore have been; nor shall use any colour of Craft, either in hiding or laying aside their Corn, Victuals, Horsemeat, Lodgings, or any other such necessities whereby the Provision of the Market may be diminished, or We and Our Servants, and other Subjects should not be as well served, and as plentifully furnished in every behalf, as it was before, or of right ought to have been, in defraud of this Our Ordinance. And furthermore We straitly charge and command all Our Officers of Our Green-cloth, Our Justices of Peace, Our Clerk of the Market, his Deputy or Deputies, Mayors, Bailiffs, Sheriffs, Constables, and all other Our Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Hundreds, and other places within the Verge of Our Household, wheresoever the same shall be, as well within Liberties as without, and every of them, from time to time, when and as often as need shall require, to make diligent inquiry of Corn, Grain, and other Victual that shall be hidden or withdrawn from the Markets, with purpose to increase the Prizes, and to cause the same to be put to sale by the Owners thereof: and upon complaint by any party justly made, every of them within their Authorities, forthwith shall endeavour themselves to see just punishment, and due reformation of the Premises, against such person or persons as shall offend herein, according to Justice.

Given at Our Court at Whitehal, the Twenty sixth day of April, 1662. In the Fourteenth year of Our Reign.

God save the King.